

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-16 of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

**Rejection Under 35 USC 102/103**

Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 USC 102(b) as obvious over US 4,631,908 to Pithouse et al (Pithouse).

Applicants traverse the rejection and note that Pithouse neither anticipates the claimed invention nor renders it obvious. The Examiner states that Pithouse discloses various ways to apply the polymer layer to form the composites such as embedding the fabric in the polymer. In Pithouse, when the fabric is embedded in the polymer, the same polymer surrounds the fabric and also forms the outside layer. See, column 6, lines 40-49. Therefore, embedding the fabric in the polymer as taught by Pithouse is different from substantially containing a first polymer in the fabric with a second polymer on at least one surface, as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner also offers column 6, lines 36-69 to show that polymeric materials forming the layers on opposite sides of the fabric may be the same or different. This passage of Pithouse presents a different embodiment from that disclosed in column 6, lines 40-49. This passage only addresses layers formed on the surface of the fabric and, as such, does not disclose or suggest a first polymer substantially contained within the fabric and a second polymer on the surface. The Examiner also invites Applicants to read column 7, line 60 through column 8, line 16. However, this passage also is only directed to applying polymer to the surface of the fabric. There is nothing in the passage indicating that a first polymer is substantially contained within the fabric and a second polymer is applied on the surface.

For a reference to be anticipating it must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention and Pithouse does not. Also, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Pithouse that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to use a first polymer contained in the nonwoven fabric and to use a second different polymer as a layer on at least one of the surfaces of the fabric, as recited in Claim 1. Claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-16 all depend from Claim 1 and therefore they are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Pithouse. As such, the rejection is improper both as to anticipation and as to obviousness; and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Rejection Under 35 USC 103(a)**

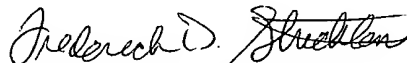
Claims 9 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Pithouse as applied to claims 7 and 13 above. Claims 9 and 14 ultimately depend from Claim 1, which has been demonstrated above as not obvious over Pithouse and therefore those claims are not obvious either.

As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. Applicants believe that all rejections have been overcome and that the instant claims are now in condition for allowance. If any matters remain for resolution, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 8, 2003

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